[28th November 1928

Municipal Councils

Postponement of the election of Chairman to Tenali municipality.

*780 Q.—Mr. P. ANJANEYULU: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government have passed orders approving of the postponement of the election of Chairman, Tenali municipality, till the 1st of November whereas the present Chairman vacates office by the 6th of October;

(b) if the answer to the above question is in the affirmative, at whose request this order was passed, and whether the Tenali Municipal Council is in favour of the postponement; and

(c) what prompted him to pass such orders?

A.—(a) The Government passed no orders in the matter, but stated that they had no objection to the postponement proposed by the outgoing Chairman which would have enabled five newly elected members whose membership only dates from the 1st November an opportunity of participating in the election.

(b) & (c) A majority of the members of the Tenali Municipal Council were in favour of the postponement.

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU:—"As regards the answer to clause (a), may I know Sir, whether the proposal of the outgoing Chairman to postpone the election to the 1st November had the support of any resolution of the Council at the time?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"No, Sir."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU:—"As regards (b) & (c), may I know whether the proposal emanated from the outgoing Chairman?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Yes, Sir."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU:—"May I know whether the Government accept that statement to be correct?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Government have reason to believe it to be correct."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU:—"May I know whether the Government have at least tried to ascertain whether it is correct?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Government have taken steps and found that it is correct."

Time granted for objections to draft rules for the preparation of electoral rolls for municipalities and union boards.

*781 Q.—Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state in regard to the six weeks' time granted for objections to the draft rules for the preparation of electoral rolls for municipalities and union boards, respectively, in G.Os. No. 3434, L. & M., dated 22nd August 1928 and No. 3437, L. & M., of the same date, whether it is counted from the date of its publication in English in the *Fort St. George Gazette* or from the date of its publication in the vernacular in the District Gazette?

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A.—Section 200 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, and section 305 of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, lay down that drafts of rules shall be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, and that such drafts shall not be further proceeded with until six weeks after such publication or until such later date as the Local Government may appoint. The period of six weeks will run from the date of publication in the *Fort St. George Gazette*.

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"May I know whether the Government will reconsider the question and modify the rules so as to give an opportunity for the notifications being published in the district gazettes in proper time?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"I shall consider the suggestion."

Excise

Details regarding the anti-drink propaganda by Government.

*782 *Q.*—Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) what steps he has so far taken from the time of his assumption of his office in the matter of giving effect to the Council's resolution of introducing prohibition in 20 years;

(*b*) whether the Government have formulated detailed proposals regarding the anti-drink propaganda work, and if so, what they are;

(*c*) if not, how long the Government will take to arrive at all those details;

(*d*) whether the Government have allotted any funds for the propaganda work; if so, how much; if not, why not;

(*e*) how many shops of toddy and liquor respectively districtwar have been closed in the years from 1922 to 1928, and for what reasons, if any;

(*f*) how many such shops were closed as they could not be sold in auction;

(*g*) (1) what is the personnel of the Excise Advisory Committee; (2) whether they have submitted any report and whether it is unanimous; if not, who are the dissenting members; and (3) whether the Government are now in a position to place on the table of the House the proposals of the Committee with that of the dissenting members; if not, why not;

(*h*) how many municipalities and local boards have since passed and forwarded to Government resolutions advocating total prohibition in their local areas and which they are; and

(*i*) what action has been taken by the Government to give effect to such resolutions?

A.—(*a*), (*b*), (*c*) & (*d*) The hon. Member is referred to the answers to clause (*a*) of question No. 76 and to question No. 565 given at the meetings of the Legislative Council held on 4th September 1928 and 12th October 1928, respectively.

(*e*) & (*f*) The hon. Member is referred to statement B in the Excise Administration reports which have been published. The Government have no information beyond that contained in these statements and have called for a report.